

## Eddie Sleeper

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**From:** Lizabeth Bespalko <flamich65@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 15, 2018 8:09 PM  
**To:** Eddie Sleeper  
**Subject:** Testimony for 1/16/2018 House Energy Policy Committee

Dear House Energy Policy Committee members:

I cannot attend the hearing tomorrow. Please see my testimony below about my issues with my DTE shut off.

DTE has bullied me, and I'm still trying to help prevent them from doing it to other people.

I put meter locks on house early 2014 at least prior to early May to prevent installation of new meter.

DTE on at least two occasions late 2014 and early 2015 appeared in driveway and spoke to my daughter indicating that I needed to make arrangements to get an "advanced meter" installed being well aware of the locks on the meters. All other houses but mine in the neighborhood nearby were replaced, many neighbors unhappy that they entered their yards and did so without their consent. I believe at least two neighbors would testify they were not happy. When all the meters in the neighborhood were installed, they were well aware mine were locked or they would have replaced just like everyone else's.

Smart Meter Education Network knows of hundreds of people that have locks on their meters for several months and some for years. If they are a safety hazard and must be removed immediately without notice, then why aren't these 100's of people all getting their power shut off immediately.

What exactly is the safety hazard?

A letter dated March 19, 2015 was mailed to me citing MPSC rule 460.136 stating my locked meter is presenting a condition that is unsafe for my family and my neighbors even though they knew it was present for several months and that the utility may shut off service temporarily for reasons of health or safety. It said my service will be disconnected unless I contact them immediately.

I called 1-800-477-4747 the day I received the letter and unfortunately did not write down the individuals name stating I had concerns about having two meters and that I needed to discuss with someone how I can get only one meter and have them combined. I was given 1-866-286-8446 by the individual I spoke to stating they can help me with that, and I was told when I reached an individual at that number that they did not have a work order for me yet and there was nothing they could do for me.

I assumed that once a work order or something became real that I would be notified further of what actions were going to happen and I would deal with it at that time.

Monday, March 30, at 11 a.m., there was a commercial vehicle in my driveway for a window installation company. They were installing windows in my home using power tools and it was very cold and windy outside. Suddenly at 11 a.m., several individuals (I believe about 5) in blue DTE jackets stormed up my driveway, a gentleman handed me a letter in an envelope handwritten with my name on it, and then they all proceeded without my permission into my backyard. One of the individuals told my contractors that they were going to be done for the day because I was having my power shut off. They took pictures of the locks on my meters and told me my power was shut off. I

exclaimed that I received a letter from them and tried to contact someone with my questions and my need for electrician work to have the two meters put on one, and that I was given a number to call, the representative at the number said they had no work order for me and basically was given the run around and that I tried to work with them and they said the power was off and left me with no electricity.

I complied with them and removed the locks and had to make several phone calls to have my electricity restored. Approximately 18 hours later, they put my electricity on one meter and a technician almost installed a transmitting meter when I clearly indicated when I called that I was selecting the opt out meter. He went back to his truck and supposedly got the correct one to install.

There was nothing wrong with the meter I had on my home. It was there for years and years with no operational issues and I paid my bills on time. Never once in over 30 years have I failed to pay for my utility consumption. I do not feel safe having all this new transmitting devices bombarding me every where. I personally do not have a cell phone, I am able to turn off my wifi when it is not being used by members of my household, but I am unable to turn off these signals bouncing around everywhere around me from the utility companies. I was completely willing to pay a meter reading fee each month, but wanted to keep my perfectly working non-transmitting meter that I have trusted my entire life.

I have an electronic "opt out" meter that I am uncomfortable having on my home but was forced to pick as I did not want something that transmits. It does not even have a UL safety inspection on it.

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